

BAAT Council meeting
12 - 4.30 pm, 19 September 2020
Zoom (online)
Approved minutes

Present

Council members. Claire Louise Vaculik (Chair), Cliff Free, Colin Sims, Dominik Havsteen-Franklin, Jude Smit, Karen Fenna, Liz Ashby, Mandy Leonard (co-opted), Richard Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Sophia Cowx, Susan Carr, Vivienne Gibbons.

SIG Representatives. Anne Stegmann (Museums and Galleries), Catherine Stevens and Julie Watson (Self-Employed, Independent and Private Practice), Nabila Azam (Art Therapy, Race and Culture), Sally Weston (Neurological Conditions).

BAAT officers in attendance. Alex McDonald (Communications, Advertising and CPD Courses Manager), Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer).

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of conflict of interest

1.1. Apologies. Nikki Linfield, Tim Wright (*ex-officio* Chair).

1.2. Conflict of Interest. Claire Louise Vaculik asked if any Council member had a potential conflict of interest for any of the matters to be discussed. None were declared.

2. Approval of the minutes for the Council meeting on 18 July 2020

2.1. Corrections. The full name of the SIPP SIG (under SIG representatives) was corrected from Sessional to Self-employed, Independent and Private Practice. Under point 11.3, Ali Coles had been incorrectly listed as a Senior Lecturer at the University of South Wales.

Action: Council approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting on 18 July 2020

3.1. Regulation of Healthcare Professions (point 2.2.1). Claire Louise Vaculik had attended a strategy development meeting held by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for its stakeholders to set out its draft 5-year strategy. Claire Louise had asked for it to include contingency planning for the possibility that the government might return to considering the deregulation of some allied health professions at some point.

3.2. Dual Experience Group co-ordinator (point 3). Mandy Leonard has joined the advisory group for IJAT Inscape as the dual experience advisor. The aim is for the Dual Experience group to restart in November as a SIG. This will be for art therapists with lived experience as service users and service providers.

3.3. Private Practice (PP) register applications and DBS checks (point 4.2). BAAT has investigated if it could provide help to self-employed members needing to access and enhanced DBS. Current legislation does not allow BAAT to request this for them as it is not an employer. If self-employed, BAAT members can still request an enhanced DBS from the organisation they are contracted to and may need to pay the processing fee. BAAT also checked other organisations' positions with regard to DBS and found that neither the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy (UKCP) nor the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) require members in private practice to have DBS checks.

3.4. Attachment and the Arts conference (point 6.5). Mary Ward Conference Centre has decided not to host in-person events for the foreseeable future. The conference will go ahead online with the attendance options of online and / or access to the conference video. BAAT will be advertising the conference internationally now it is a wholly online event.

3.5. Regional Groups and Countries: Scotland (point 16.2). Val Huet has been working with Kerry Ramsaidh (Chair of BAAT Scotland) to challenge the Scottish government about the exclusion of art therapy from counselling provision in schools. Council to discuss this further under point 16.2 below.

4. Chair's report - Claire Louise Vaculik

Claire Louise highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

4.1. Engaging with members. Claire Louise had hosted two online drop-in meetings for BAAT members which gave an overview of the issues people are facing during the Covid-19 lockdown. Many have lost work or had their hours reduced and people are having to adapt to working with clients online. Art therapists working in education voiced concerns about the approach to managing Covid-19 related risk in comparison to other sectors.

4.2. Engaging with groups. Claire Louise attended a SIG meeting for all art therapists working with children and young people in education. She had two meetings with Regional Group co-ordinators over the summer and will be attending an IJAT Inscope editorial board meeting in late September.

4.3. HCPC, Partners and Stakeholders. Claire Louise attended the strategy development meeting at the HCPC (see point 3.1 above) and is now also a member of its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum. She liaises regularly with the Chairs and CEOs of the other arts therapies associations and has been attending meetings of Health Education England (HEE) and the Allied Health Professions Forum (AHPF).

5. Vice Chair's report - Richard Whitaker

Richard has been providing support to the Chair and CEO around BAAT's day-to-day work, including joining Val Huet for a conference call with the American Art Therapy Association (AATA) about the next international conference in 2022. He has also been working with Dominik Havsteen-Franklin on preparing a Zoom webinar for BAAT members on how to approach applying for jobs in adult mental health services in the NHS.

6. Chief Executive Officer's report - Val Huet

Val highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

6.1. CEO post. Since the last Council meeting Val has continued to work to ensure BAAT is able to provide members with support around the current situation with Covid-19 and the lockdown, support and work with BAAT staff to continue working online, and delegating and covering work for staff on furlough. Most of the BAAT office staff are now back at work on 50 to 60 per cent of their usual contracted hours.

6.2. BAAT courses. All the CPD courses have now moved online and BAAT has been running a series of free Zoom webinars alongside them, which members say they have found useful. Because of the predicted economic downturn and its likely impact on jobs, BAAT will be running online sessions in the autumn about how to apply for posts in the NHS and CAMHS. The aim is to help members to present their skills and CV in a way employers want to see.

6.3. BAAT research. Work is progressing with the RCT on arts therapies groups with mixed diagnoses. A report from Dr Sue Holttum (BAAT Research Officer) on her work had been circulated to Council prior to the meeting. Val attended a Zoom meeting with the AATA CEO, President and Vice-President and BAAT Chair and Vice-Chair on 11 September to start the planning for the next international practice / research conference in 2022.

6.4. BAAT guidance updates. Guidance in BAAT's Restraint policies advice needs to be updated and BAAT will be seeking feedback from members whose employers have asked them to do this kind of training. A set of Touch guidelines is in development and a draft policy will be sent out to SIGs and Regional Groups shortly.

6.5. Finance report. Moving the CPD courses online has helped to maintain this income stream and in-person training seems unlikely to restart until 2021 at the earliest. Income from member subscriptions is expected to decrease over the next few months as more people move to the under-employed membership rate. BAAT had to pay rent on its office space through lockdown but was helped by money from the government's furlough scheme and a small grant from Islington Council. Overall, BAAT is in a stable financial situation at present but is prepared for challenges ahead as the UK enters recession.

7. BAAT Council working groups - updates

7.1. Self-employed survey. The working group of Val Huet, Liz Ashby and Nikki Linfield have been working on deciding on the key areas the survey will focus on. They want to consult with people who are self-employed around what contact information they would want to have visible in the updated BAAT website. A draft survey is being worked on and will be circulated to the SIPP SIG for feedback before being sent out to members.

7.2. Review of the Regional and Special Interest Group Co-ordinator guidelines. Dominik Havsteen-Franklin is working on a governance document. He attended the SIG co-ordinators meeting (held prior to Council's meeting) to discuss how the co-ordinator guidelines might be updated. Once Dominik has drafted the proposed changes to the governance document they will be circulated to the SIGs for feedback.

7.3 Survey of BAAT members. Val Huet reported that work has not yet started on this. The working group's first task will be to decide on the scope of the questions to be asked.

7.4. Touch policy guidelines. Richard Whitaker is awaiting feedback from Council members before sending the draft policy out to SIGs and Regional Groups. The policy is intended

primarily for art therapists working with children and young people but could be adapted for other vulnerable groups such as people with learning disabilities or dementia.

8. Black Lives Matter - ARC and BAAT actions

8.1. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Art Therapy. Claire Louise Vaculik reported that BAAT had circulated a position statement 'Increasing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Art Therapy' to members earlier in the week. Response to it has been positive, with some people having contacted BAAT to share experiences they have had of discrimination and saying they are pleased to see the commitments set out in the statement.

8.2. BAAT online workshops. Jacqui McKoy-Lewens will be running an online workshop 'BLM is not just a hashtag: how you can help to ease the trauma' in September. Anthea Benjamin's two rescheduled online workshops will now be held in October and early November. BAAT is in discussion with Yvonne Coghill to run a CPD event 'The Seven A's of Authentic Allyship'.

8.3. Developing workshops on different areas of identity. Jude Smit had met with Nabila Azam (Art Therapy, Race and Culture SIG) earlier in the week and discussed the possibility of running three workshops led by people who have a special interest in particular aspects of identity. Jude will be submitting a summary of the ideas they discussed to BAAT to be developed into workshops / training events for the new year.

9. Update on Forums for RGs and SIGs

Val Huet reported that it is now possible to upload photos and larger documents to the BAAT online forums. This had taken longer to resolve than anticipated because the company that maintains BAAT's IT had staff on furlough and reduced working. BAAT will be working with them to improve the functionality of the forums further. Davy Yong (BAAT Office) will be making a short film on using the forums that members can access on BAAT's YouTube site.

10. Newsbriefing - Alex McDonald

The Summer 2020 issue was published online because of the Covid-19 situation and a print version not being possible. The proposed special issue on the experiences of BAME people of art therapy has been withdrawn for the time being. The Art Therapy, Race and Culture SIG asked for the aims, intentions and language to be considered more fully so that a revised call-out can then be sent out to members. The aim is for this now to be the Summer 2021 issue. There will not be a Winter 2020 issue as there is currently no content for it and the deadline for copy is 1 October 2020.

11. International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape - Susan Carr

Susan highlighted items from her report, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

11.1. IJAT Inscape profile. There continues to be a year-on-year increase in full-text downloads of articles, with an average 45 per cent increase on the same period in 2019. The journal's Cite score is now ranked at 43 out of 115 in the Rehabilitation (Clinical Psychology) category.

11.2. Editorial team. IJAT Inscape has welcomed 5 new international Advisors and Mandy Leonard has joined as the Dual Experience Advisor. An advertisement for new Associate Editors is being drawn up and it is hoped this will lead to international art therapists being recruited.

11.3. IJAT Inscape special issues. The special issue on the inaugural International Art Therapy Practice / Research Conference was published over the summer. The next special issue about online art therapy will be published in December, with 16 papers having been submitted for consideration for this.

11.4. New Practitioner and Early Career Researcher essays prize. The call for entries was made in January 2020 and the deadline for receipt of submissions is January 2021. Social media is being used to promote the essay prizes with the aim of generating entries from around the world.

11.5. Peer Reviewer training. The co-editors, Alex McDonald and Susan Carr, are working on developing an online Peer Reviewer training workshop for Spring 2021.

12. Dual Experience - Mandy Leonard

Mandy Leonard has focused initially on understanding the work required of her as the Dual Experience Advisor for IJAT Inscape. She will be working on restarting the Dual Experience SIG and is aiming for the first meeting to be held in November. Information about this will be sent out in BAAT's e-Bulletin and Val Huet will also individually notify people who were part of the group previously.

13. Service User Involvement

The role of service user involvement lead is currently vacant.

14. BAAT Short Courses - Alex McDonald

All in-person training scheduled for March to July had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 lockdown. The September to December courses are going ahead online with increased capacity. Despite this disruption the short courses have still generated 64 per cent of their usual income. There will be new online CPD courses introduced over the next few months. Alex thanked Ioanna Xenophontes (Office and Events Manager) and Lex Bagust (Social Media Officer) for their hard work and support through this challenging time. A positive outcome of running short courses online is that it enables BAAT to open them up to art therapists around the world and use trainers who would not otherwise be able to come to London.

15. BAAT Website and Social Media - Alex McDonald

BAAT's Social media networks are continuing to grow in reach, particularly Instagram which is becoming as important as Twitter in promoting the association. The LinkedIn account has not yet been restarted because of lockdown and staff being on furlough. Alex asked Council to promote the e-Bulletin to BAAT members as it is currently showing about 40 per cent opening as opposed to 50 per cent in the past. There has been some feedback that it has a lot of content and people may be experiencing information overload. BAAT will be looking at alternatives, such as more frequent but smaller issue-based bulletins. Much of the work

the social media team planned to do was disrupted by the Covid-19 lockdown. Now that Lex Bagust and Alex are back to full hours they will look at implementing the developments planned from the autumn.

16. Educators

Claire Louise Vaculik reported on the pressure Educators are under at present as the new academic year is about to start. The Covid-19 situation has meant there are extra issues around online presentations and setting up student placements. Karen Fenna added that educators are focusing on how they can support their students. Courses are anticipating that lectures and seminar groups will be totally online and the potential for further local or national lockdowns remains.

17. Regional Groups and Countries

17.1. Regional Group Network Co-ordinator. Karen Fenna has taken over the role from Jayne McConkey, who stepped down at the AGM in May.

17.2. Scotland. Val Huet and Claire Louise Vaculik have supported Kerry Ramsaidh (Chair of BAAT Scotland) to draft a letter to the Scottish government challenging it about the exclusion of art therapy from funding for therapeutic services in schools. Kerry has written to John Sweeney, MSP, about this situation as have the Chairs of the other arts therapies associations asking for a meeting to discuss the matter. Many charities working with children in Scotland have raised concerns about this too.

17.3. Wales. Karen Fenna has taken on the role of Wales representative.

17.4. Northern Ireland. Colin Sims is the Northern Ireland representative.

18. Special Interest Groups

18.1. SIG representatives attendance at Council meetings. SIG co-ordinators had met with the Chair and CEO before the Council meeting. Sally Weston (Neurological Conditions SIG) asked if all the SIG representatives could potentially attend online Council meetings now, as physical space was not an issue as it had been in BAAT office.

19. Dates of the next Council meetings

5 December 2020
6 March 2021
15 May 2021 (AGM)
17 July 2021
18 September 2021
4 December 2021

20. Any Other Business

There were no requests for any other business to be discussed.

BAAT Council meeting - Elected members

2 - 4.30 pm, 19 September 2020

Zoom (online)

Approved minutes

Present

Council members. Claire Louise Vaculik (Chair), Cliff Free, Colin Sims, Dominik Havsteen-Franklin, Jude Smit, Karen Fenna, Liz Ashby, Mandy Leonard (co-opted), Richard Whitaker (Vice-Chair), Simon Richardson (Hon. Secretary), Sophia Cowx, Susan Carr, Tim Wright (*ex-officio* Chair), Vivienne Gibbons.

BAAT officers in attendance. Val Huet (Chief Executive Officer).

21. Elected Council members

21.1. Format for Council minutes. Claire Louise Vaculik explained that BAAT has taken legal advice from Russell Cooke Solicitors on how its minutes should be recorded in future. Apart from sections where someone is giving a report linked to a role on Council, people do not need to be named. Simon Richardson suggested it would be helpful to have templates for reports to Council as this would help to standardise minute taking. Reports could then be circulated prior to Council meetings outlining the issues to be discussed. Council members then discussed ways in which BAAT could update its governance around the conduct of meetings and how they are minuted.

21.2. Feedback on small claim court case. A member had taken an action against BAAT through the small claim court, alleging that bulk emails were not reaching them, that they were not receiving their full service from BAAT and that they were deliberately excluded from the email list. Claire Louise Vaculik and Val Huet attended the court case in August for BAAT, with support from a solicitor and a barrister (which was funded by Howden's insurance). The case brought against BAAT was dismissed. The judge asked if BAAT wanted the complainant to compensate them for time wasted but BAAT decided against doing this. It was noted also that BAAT had offered a 'without prejudice' settlement which the claimant refused. BAAT's barrister asked the judge to record that the case had 'no merit', which was granted. Were the complainant now to pursue another groundless action against BAAT, there would be grounds for the association to take up a civil harassment case.

21.3. Handover plans and process for new CEO starting on 1 October. Val Huet told Council members that Anna Playle will not now be taking up the post of CEO as a result of changes in her personal circumstances. Val agreed to continue to provide operational management covering staff team, finance and infrastructure management until a new CEO is appointed but will formally stand down from the post on 30 September, so she can start in the Research and Development Director role. It was agreed the CEO post should be put out to advertisement straight away and be opened up to applicants from outside the profession if there was little interest from art therapists. The job description will be updated to reflect the need to manage issues arising from the Covid-19 situation.

Action: Claire Louise Vaculik and Val Huet to work on a statement about the CEO post to go out to members on Monday and the job to go out to advert by mid-week.

21.4. BAAT staff update. Val Huet circulated a proposed job description for a Junior Comms. and Marketing Officer post. There had been a discussion at the last Council meeting about employing a 16 - 24-year-old under the government's Kickstart job scheme. However, this would require employing more than one person, which was not feasible. Val suggested recruiting to the Comms. and Marketing post instead and outlined the main responsibilities of the role. The post would be for a period of 1 year initially, with a continuation dependent on measurable improvement in BAAT's social media visibility. Council members agreed that BAAT should proceed with this.

Action: BAAT to recruit a Junior Comms. and Marketing Officer.

21.5. Review of BAAT minutes. Claire Louise Vaculik had circulated a statement to be added to the July minutes regarding a request from a BAAT member for two previous approved sets of minutes to be amended. Council members agreed the statement should be included in the July minutes as worded.

21.6. Scheduling reviews of BAAT guidance and governance policies. The following policies are in need of review and update:

21.6.1. Control and Restraint for clinicians. BAAT will be asking for feedback from members who are being required by employers to do this kind of training.

Action: A draft position statement will be circulated to Council for approval.

21.6.2. Guidelines on supporting colleagues who are called to court. A draft set of guidelines are needed as this can often involve practitioners being drawn into acrimonious custody disputes which can be very stressful.

Action: Draft guidelines to be circulated to Council for discussion.

21.6.3. Adult clients' disclosure of historical abuse. A set of best practice guidelines has been developed by an NHS Trust which employs art therapists. These can form the basis for BAAT's guidelines for its members.

Action: BAAT to contact the NHS Trust to seek permission for to use these guidelines.

Because of time constraints in this meeting a review of these guidance and governance policies was held over for the next Council meeting in December.